

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 07151 231820Z

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ACTION EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 230942Z MAY 74 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6203

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 7151

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER

1. COMMUNIST ROCKETS WERE LAUNCHED AT PHNOM PENH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN THREE DAYS. ONE OF THE TWO 107MM ROCKETS EXPLODED HARMLESSLY IN THE MEKONG BUT THE OTHER LANDED IN THE STREET A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE CAPITAL'S INDEPENDENCE MONUMENT AND WOUNDED TWO CIVILIANS. IT IS BELIEVED THE ROCKETS WERE LAUNCHED FROM THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH.

2. A THREE-SHIP MEKONG CONVOY ESCORTED BY SIX KHMER NAVY CRAFT ARRIVED SAFELY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON IN KOMPONG CHAM FROM PHNOM PENH. THE CONVOY CAME UNDER TWO ATTACKS EN ROUTE FROM COMMUNIST HEAVY MACHINE GUNS AND MORTARS BUT THERE WERE NO HITS ON ANY OF THE THREE SHIPS. THEY CARRIED MILITARY SUPPLIES AND OVER 300 TONS OF RICE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 07151 231820Z

3. AT LOVEK NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, A TWO-DAY FANK OPERATION TO EXPAND THE BASE'S SOUTHEAST PERIMETER HAS COST THE COMMUNISTS 40 SOLDIERS KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. FANK LOST 4 KILLED AND 23 WOUNDED IN THE 700 METER ADVANCE. GOVERNMENT TROOPS CAPTURED 7 CREW-SERVED AND 37 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS IN THE OPERATION. SCATTERED ATTACKS BY FIRE ON THE BASE WEDNESDAY CAUSED ONLY LIGHT GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES.

4. IN ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTACT, COMMUNIST FORCES ATTACKED FIVE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON ROUTE ONE AT KHSOM, 18 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. THE ATTACK BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT TUESDAY AND WAS BROKEN OFF AT 10 WEDNESDAY MORNING. THE COMMUNISTS LEFT 39 DEAD ON THE BATTLEFIELD WITH ONE COMMUNIST PRISONER BEING TAKEN. FANK LOST 8 SOLDIERS KILLED AND 30 OTHERS WOUNDED. ROUTE ONE IS NOW CLEARED FROM THE CAPITAL TO NEAK LUONG.

5. AT KOMPONG THOM, GOVERNMENT UNITS EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING BROKE OUT OF THEIR SOUTHERN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND ATTACKED A COMMUNIST FORCE WHICH WAS PREPARING AN ATTACK UPON THEIR POSITIONS. THE COMMUNISTS WERE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AND THEIR ADVANCE WAS BLOCKED. THE GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE SUPPORTED BY AIR AND ARTILLERY FIRE. DETAILS OF THE ENGAGEMENT ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

6. FANK UNITS ON ROUTE 5 NORTH OF KRUOS WHICH HAD WITHDRAWN A FEW KILOMETERS THE DAY BEFORE WERE HOLDING WEDNESDAY AS SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS ARE BEING BROUGHT UP. COMMUNIST MORTARS HIT THEIR POSITIONS BUT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES. AT TAKEO, FANK PATROLS MADE CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY ON THREE DIFFERENT PERIMETERS. MEANWHILE, A HEAVY COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACK UPON THE TOWN'S NORTHERN PERIMETER AT MIDNIGHT TUESDAY LEFT THREE FANK SOLDIERS DEAD. AND AT O SANDAN ON ROUTE 5 SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG, ATTACKS BY FIRE FOLLOWED BY A COMMUNIST TWO-HOUR GROUND ASSAULT WEDNESDAY MORNING COST THE ENEMY SEVEN DEAD AS HE WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW. OTHER ATTACKS BY FIRE AND LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTRY WITH ONLY LIGHT GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES.

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